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DCI/IC 74-2413

23 DEC 1974

Lieutenant General Daniel O. Graham, USA  
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Dan:

At a meeting with the Director of Central Intelligence on 27 November 1974, Andy Marshall raised three concerns relative to intelligence support to field commanders utilizing national collection systems and information. He asked that papers be prepared in response to these matters for provision to Secretary Schlesinger.

I recognize that the subject matter indicated is being addressed, inter alia, in our National/Tactical Intelligence Interface Study with the Joint Staff, but the results of the current phase of that study will not be available until mid-1975. Therefore, I request that you prepare responses for Andy Marshall which can be provided to the Secretary at an earlier date. I suggest that you do this in concert with Navy and perhaps NSA.

The subjects raised and a brief summary of the discussion concerning each are as follows:

a. Current and Planned Use of National Collection Systems for the Support of Field Commanders

This question arose as a result of Dr. Schlesinger's visit to the Navy installation at Rota, Spain, and concern expressed there as to how the Commander, Sixth Fleet would be supported. As I understood Mr. Marshall, the Secretary of Defense is interested in normal peacetime support as well as support in crisis periods. Specific mention was made of the extent to which the  system should provide "tactical" support.

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b. Tactical Warning to Field Commanders

This problem was posed in terms of how the Sixth Fleet would get tactical warning now and in the future. The specific illustration cited was how Sixth Fleet would be warned that Soviet medium range bombers were headed into the Mediterranean area. Mr. Marshall proposed that the inquiry should describe how the system would work in several different scenarios.

c. Provision of Non-military Information to Field Commanders in Crisis Periods

The briefings given the Secretary of Defense apparently stressed the desire for more reporting on political and related information on the countries involved during crisis periods. The problem involves determining what reporting is now being provided and what additional material--presumably both raw data and national reporting--could be provided. Since the FOSIC at Rota is part of the USEUCOM structure, the response should include indication of the support USEUCOM provides.

Mr. Marshall indicated that the FOSIC is concerned about the degree of reliance which is or should be put on Third Party reporting in crisis periods, particularly in the crisis.

Although these concerns apparently arose as a result of Dr. Schlesinger's visit to Rota and his interest in effective support to the Sixth Fleet, I suggest that your responses not be limited to that one area or command. In regard to Sixth Fleet support, however, I am aware of the Middle East Crisis Fleet Support Study [ ] dated 1 June 1974) which the Office of Naval Intelligence accomplished at the request of DIA following the October 1973 Middle East war. This study sheds considerable light on the inputs provided from national sources and their relative effectiveness in supporting the Sixth Fleet during a crisis period.

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If the Intelligence Community Staff can provide any assistance to you in preparing these responses, I suggest you contact Brigadier General Jack Kulpa who was a party to this discussion and who also is responsible for our efforts in the National/Tactical Interface Study.

Sincerely,

/s/ Samuel V. Wilson

Samuel V. Wilson  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy to the DCI for the  
Intelligence Community

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